

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-13 (Cancelled).

14. (Previously Presented) A method for improving transmission control protocol (TCP) performance of a communication network wherein a receiver receives a plurality of packets each having a header comprising an address and a sequence number, said method comprising the steps of:

identifying at least one received packet having a bit error; and  
if all packets for a window size are received, sending a selective acknowledgement indicating that said at least one received packet has a bit error and suppressing duplicate acknowledgements.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of:

constructing the selective acknowledgment having a plurality of acknowledgment bits, each acknowledgment bit corresponding to a respective packets for said window size.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein said constructing step further comprises the steps of:

for each of said at least one identified packets having a bit error, assigning an error value to a corresponding acknowledgment bit in said selective acknowledgment; and

for each of said received packets for the window size not having a bit error, assigning a no-error value to a corresponding acknowledgement bit in said selective acknowledgment.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein said constructing step further comprises the step of:

for each packet for the window size not received, assigning an error value to a corresponding acknowledgment bit in said selective acknowledgment.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of:

sending duplicate selective acknowledgments if all packets for a window size are not received.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Previously Presented) A method for providing transport protocol within a communication network having a receiver receiving a plurality of packets, said method comprising:

determining a non-congestion bit error for at least one packet from the plurality of packets; and

sending a selective acknowledgment associated with said at least one packet having a non-congestion bit error without invoking a congestion control mechanism.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

determining a congestion bit error for at least a second packet from the plurality of packets; and

sending a plurality of duplicate acknowledgments associated with said second packet having a congestion bit error.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of invoking a congestion control mechanism.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein said selective acknowledgment comprises a plurality of bits indicating a status of an associated plurality of packets.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 wherein each of said plurality of bits corresponds to a sequence number of a packet from the plurality of packets, each bit having one value from the group of a first value indicating a packet was received with an error or a packet was not received, and a second value indicating a packet was received without an error.

26. (Previously Presented) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of executable program instructions to perform a method for improving transmission control protocol (TCP) performance of a communication network wherein a receiver receiving a plurality of packets each having a header comprising an address and a sequence number, said method comprising the steps of:

identifying at least one received packet having a bit error; and  
if all packets for a window size are received, sending a selective acknowledgement indicating that said at least one received packet has a bit error and suppressing duplicate acknowledgments.

27. (Previously Presented) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of executable instructions to perform a method for providing transport protocol within a communication network having a receiver receiving a plurality of packets, said method comprising:

determining a non-congestion bit error, for at least one packet from the plurality of packets; and

sending a selective acknowledgement associated said at least one packet having a non-congestion bit error without invoking a congestion control mechanism.

28 - 30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously Presented) A method for improving transmission control protocol (TCP) performance of a communication network comprising the steps of:  
transmitting a plurality of packets to a receiver; and  
receiving a selective acknowledgement associated with at least one packet having a non-congestion bit error and not invoking a congestion control mechanism.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31 wherein said selective acknowledgment comprises a plurality of bits indicating a status of an associated plurality of packets.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein each of said plurality of bits corresponds to a sequence number of a packet from the plurality of packets, each bit having one value from the group of a first value indicating a packet was received with an error or a packet was not received, and a second value indicating a packet was received without an error.